

Funds for fellowship in art and culture

2681. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of money earmarked for giving various fellowships for art and culture during the last two years;
- (b) the amount actually utilised;
- (c) whether Government have any proposal for reducing the number of such fellowships;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) if not, whether it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Funds earmarked for the grant of fellowships during the last 2 years are as follows:

1998-99	:	Rs. 185.47 lakh
1999-2000	:	Rs. 321.00 lakh

(b) The funds actually utilized during the last two years for the grant of fellowships are as follows:

1998-99	:	Rs. 184.88 lakh
1999-2000	:	Rs. 306.05 lakh

(c) There is no such proposal. In fact, the number of fellowships have been increased from 300 in 1997-98 to 450 in 1998-99. Fellowships in New Areas (Indology, Management of heritage and art of cultural institutions etc.) have also been introduced from 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Development of temple towns in Orissa

2682. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to develop the temple towns in the country;
- (b) if so, the Central assistance extended so far or proposed to be extended in 2000-2001, 2001-2002 for the development of temple towns in Orissa viz. Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

[20 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Department of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/U.T. Administrations for development of infrastructure facilities at places of Tourism and Pilgrim importance for the specific projects prioritized in consultation with State Government/U.T. Administration concerned. At the request of State Government of Orissa Bhubaneshwar has been included in the list of Pilgrim Centres of the country. The details of the projects sanctioned during first three years of 9th Plan period and projects prioritized for Central assistance during 2000-2001 are given in the Statement (See below).

Projects for Central Assistance during 2001-2002 are yet to be prioritized.

Statement

Development of Temple Towns in Orissa

(i) *Details of the Project sanctioned during 1st three years of Ninth Plan period for Development of temple towns in Orissa viz. Puri, Konarak and Bhubaneshwar.*

S. Name of the Project No.	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1. Public Conveniences at Nandankanan	1997-98	15.00
2. Public Conveniences at Dhoulagiri	1997-98	15.00
3. Rath Yatra	1997-98	4.00
4. Beach Festival	1997-98	5.00
5. Konark Dance Festival	1997-98	5.00
6. Development of Chandrabhaga Beach, Konark and Improvement of Holy Tank and Land Scaping	1998-99	41.00
7. Puri Beach Festival	1998-99	3.00
8. Additional Accommodation at Existing Yatri Niwas at Konark (Phase-II)	1999-2000	48.00

(ii) *Details of the Projects prioritized for Central Assistance during 2000-2001 for Puri, Konark and Bhubaneshwar in Orissa.*

S. No.	Name of the Project Prioritized	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Integrated Development of Tourist Centre, Puri	60.00
2.	Development of Buddha Jayanti Park, Bhubaneshwar	40.00
3.	Development of Puri Temple Complex including Anada Bazar and Heritage at Atharnala	60.00
4.	Development of Padnakeshpur Patia, Bhubaneshwar	24.00
5.	Development of Craft Village at Khandgiri, Bhubaneshwar	40.00

Financial assistance to private travel bureaus

2683. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have considered extending financial support to private travel bureaus in developing the tourism industry;
- (b) if so, the details of the support extended and names of the organisations who have received the assistance; and
- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Central Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Government on the merit of proposals, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. However, no such assistance is being extended to private travel bureaus.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No approved scheme exists to extend such assistance to private bureaus.